

Appl. No. 09/540,614
Amdt. Dated 01/06/2006
Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
implementing an integrated circuit device within an electronic system, the integrated circuit device including an override disable pin; and
preventing modification of a representation of a primary pass-phrase when the override disable pin is asserted, the primary pass-phrase permitting access to stored information within a non-volatile memory of the integrated circuit device implemented within the electronic system when the primary pass-phrase is input by the user and the primary pass-phrase is determined to be correct based on a comparison conducted between a value computed from the primary pass-phrase and the representation of the primary pass-phrase.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the integrated circuit device comprises a package to form a packaged integrated circuit device.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein preventing of the modification of the primary pass-phrase includes
setting a control storage element within the integrated circuit device upon assertion of the override disable pin; and
disabling modification of the primary pass-phrase when the control storage element is set.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the control storage element is set after placing the electronic system in an administration mode upon correctly inputting the primary pass-phrase into the electronic system.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the integrated circuit device further includes an override pin which, when asserted, allows a stored representation of the primary pass-phrase to be modified.

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6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the preventing of the modification of the primary pass-phrase includes signaling a control application software initiating a request for modification of the pass-phrase that a user is denied access to the stored information of the integrated circuit device unless the primary pass-phrase is correctly entered and prohibiting modification of the representation of the primary pass-phrase.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the representation of the primary pass-phrase includes a hash value of the primary pass-phrase.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein control storage element includes at least one control register configured for permanent state retention over a plurality of power cycles.

9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
enabling access to stored information within an electronic system, the information including a representation of a primary pass-phrase, upon assertion of an override pin of an integrated circuit device; and
disabling access to the stored information despite assertion of the override pin of the integrated circuit device when the integrated circuit device is powered on and an override disable pin of the integrated circuit device is asserted prior to assertion of the override pin unless the primary pass-phrase is correctly supplied by a determination using the representation of the primary pass-phrase.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the integrated circuit device comprises a package to form a packaged integrated circuit device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the act of disabling access comprises setting a control storage element within the integrated circuit device in response to the assertion of the override disable pin; and
determining whether the control storage element is set.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the control storage element is set after placing the electronic system in an administration mode upon correctly inputting the primary pass-phrase into the electronic system.

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13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the setting of the control storage element includes setting a bit of at least one control register configured for permanent state retention over a plurality of power cycles.

14. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
enabling placement of an integrated circuit device of an electronic system into an administrator mode upon assertion of an override pin of the integrated circuit device, data stored within the integrated circuit device can be cleared only when the integrated circuit device is placed in the administrator mode; and

disabling placement of the integrated circuit device of the electronic system into the administrator mode despite assertion of the override pin of the integrated circuit device when an override disable pin of the integrated circuit device is asserted prior to assertion of the override pin so that the primary pass-phrase needs to be supplied before access to the data stored within the integrated circuit device is allowed.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the integrated circuit device comprises a package to form a packaged integrated circuit device.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the act of disabling access comprises setting a control storage element within the integrated circuit device in response to the assertion of the override disable pin; and
determining whether the control storage element is set.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the setting of the control storage element includes setting a bit of at least one control register configured for permanent state retention over a plurality of power cycles.

18. (Currently Amended) An electronic system comprising:
a bus;
a processor coupled to the bus;
a system memory coupled to the bus; and
an integrated circuit device coupled to the bus, the integrated circuit device including:

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an integrated circuit package,

a memory contained to the integrated circuit package,

an override pin of the integrated circuit package to enable access to and modification of a representation of a primary pass-phrase upon assertion of the override pin, the primary pass-phrase permitting access to information stored within the memory, and

an override disable pin of the integrated circuit package to disable access to and modification of a representation of the primary pass-phrase despite the assertion of the override pin when the override disable pin is asserted prior to assertion of the override pin.

19. (Original) The electronic system of claim 18, wherein the integrated circuit further comprises a package to contain the memory from which the override pin and the override disable pin protrude.

20. (Original) The electronic system of claim 18, wherein the memory of the integrated circuit device is non-volatile memory.

21. (Original) The electronic system of claim 18, wherein the integrated circuit device further includes a control storage element.

22. (Original) The electronic system of claim 21, wherein the control storage element of the integrated circuit device includes at least one control register configured for permanent state retention over a plurality of power cycles.

23. (Original) The electronic system of claim 18, wherein the integrated circuit device further includes a microcode to determine whether the override disable pin has been asserted prior to assertion of the override pin.